

WAUKESHA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 17, 2003

Present: Linda Cole, Troy Norman, Linda Ystad, Grace Davis-Harris, Mary Beth VanderMale,
Ed Renner, Christine Hansen, John Rau, Kathryn Franke, Lois Jones, Tim Minkley,
Lois Jones

Ex-Officio: Ardean Orth, Mike DeMares, Richard Wutt

Excused: Sandra Hack, Corrine Gresen

Absent: Laura Lutz, Irma Gosselin, James Hanover

Guest: David Krahn

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Linda Cole, Chairperson.

Educational Segment

Troy Norman introduced our guest speaker, David Krahn, County Legislative Policy Advisor. We asked him to come at an earlier date this year to update us on what is happening with both the State and the County. He is a registered lobbyist for the County and reports directly to the County Board and indirectly to the County Executive as well. He works with Division Managers and department heads relative to State legislation and now the State budget. We are now in the process of sifting through the State budget to determine what the impact is on our programs. There has been redistricting so we now have 16 legislators who represent Waukesha County. Scott Jensen is no longer the Speaker as he decided to step down, but Mr. Foti was re-elected majority leader. We have 4 members from our delegation who serve on the Joint Finance Committee, all on the Senate side. The Joint Finance Committee consists of 8 members of the Assembly and 8 members of the Senate. There are 12 Republicans and 4 Democrats. Of the Republicans, 4 represent Waukesha County. This week the Committee will hear from the various Departments. After this week and for the next three weeks beyond this week, there will be hearings throughout the State on the budget. The schedule is available from him. The hearing in Milwaukee is in early April which would be the closest for us. It is a difficult budget this year, partially because past budgets were based on future income which never materialized. Our State deficit now is 3.2 billion dollars. Governor Doyle's budget has serious cuts to avoid tax increases. Counties and cities will need to make cuts in programs likewise depending on what the cuts will be in shared revenue. We won't know the final outcome of the Governor's proposed budget until it goes past the Joint Finance Committee and the Senate and the Assembly. He expects the budget to be on the governor's desk by July 1.

Mr. Krahn asked Mike DeMares if he had anything to add at this point. Mike said that many of the adjustments are in Medical Assistance program. He went on to explain inter-county transfer of MA funding. The changes would help to reduce the CSP waiting list, would help to provide more money for therapy and to continue Senior Care and have more money for those served under COP, KIP, and other services. The disadvantage would be that services to autistic children may be discontinued or forced to be done at home which would not be as effective. He nor Mr. Krahn has seen anything related to alcohol issues.

Mike DeMares also reported that the Mental Health Parity bill is backed up again, but it is a little different now in that the minimum amount of coverage by insurance companies has been increased. There are actually two bills proposed.

We will probably know the full impact of the State budget in early July. Also worth noting, the fiscal year for the federal budget starts in October. We will want to follow with what happens with the Social Services Block Grant as well as other areas in the federal budget.

Mr. Krahn recommended that we follow the State Parity Bills in the State Senate, Senate Bill 71 and Senate Bill 72. He discussed these two bills. At the Federal level, on the Senate side the bill is S486 which has 43 co-sponsors. (Senators Kohl and Feingold are not on this bill.) On the House side the bill is HR953 which has 185 co-sponsors so far (including three Democrats from Wisconsin, but no Republicans). He urged us to contact our legislators regarding mental health parity legislation. He talked about campaign finance reform and the bill regarding this which is Senate Bill SB12 at the State level.

At the local level, Mr. Krahn also discussed the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council. It was formed late last year and approved by the County Board and County Executive. It consists of 11 key figures of Waukesha County. It is expected to help keep mentally ill people out of jail.

Since there were no further questions, Mr. Krahn offered to be available for any future updates.

Review and Approval of February Minutes

Linda Cole asked for any additions or corrections to the February Minutes. Linda Ystad made a minor correction under the Membership/Nominating Sub-Committee report. The minutes reported that Linda had contacted and met with clergy last fall, but it was actually the fall of 2001, not last fall. Kathryn Franke then moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Troy Norman seconded the motion. There was no discussion and motion was unanimously approved.

Board Liaison Report

Richard Wutt announced that the Public Hearing is on April 9 at the Waukesha County Expo Center at 7:00 PM. The Joint Advisory Committee Meeting will be on April 3 at the Goodwill Building at 10:00 AM. Linda Cole said she has the information on this which she will give us.

Mr. Wutt reported on two Health & Human Services Board meetings. The first meeting, a combined Committee/Board meeting, was held on Thursday, February 27. Among agenda items discussed was the Family Planning Waiver originally proposed in 1998 in response to escalating unwed/teen pregnancies at that time. Don Mauer distributed information. Don Mauer also gave the General Assistance medical update. The County will end the BASIC program around the end of August or beginning of September 2003 due to escalating costs. People could still be eligible for rent and food vouchers.

There was an update of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Ernie Messinger said by April 14 counties are required to have their policies written and in place for the privacy component. Mr. Wagner said County staff have been working since last year to become HIPAA compliant. Training for supervisors is scheduled for the weeks of March 24 and March 31 for the privacy component and staff training for the weeks of April 7 and April 14.

There was a review of the Mental Health Advisory Committee Needs List. Mike DeMares distributed copies of the 2004 needs list. Linda Cole reviewed the list as outlined. A few of the identified needs entail additional funding. These include \$30,000 for services for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) individuals, \$40,000 for increased psychiatry time for adults, \$50,000 for Clubhouse expansion, and \$50,000 for newer psycho pharmaceuticals for children and adults.

The second meeting Mr. Wutt reported on was held on March 13 which was also a joint meeting of the Health and Human Services Board and Committee. Among items for review were the Public Health Advisory Committee Needs List given by Dr. Panages. Preparedness for bioterrorism was discussed and also the critical need for a bilingual interpreter. There was also a review of the AODA Advisory Committee Needs List.

Sub-Committee Reports

Membership/Nominating – Linda Ystad reported that she will pursue contacting the minister's group to see if any of the ministers is interested in being a representative at our meetings. A draft of the current membership list was distributed for members to review and make any updates or changes.

Legislative – Kathryn Franke addressed the two mental health parity bills that are proposed. She again recommended contacting our legislators. She has a list on how they currently voted. She attended the Survival Coalition Meeting in Madison this morning which covered mental health topics. It oversees the People Can't Wait Coalition. There will be a People Can't Wait rally in Madison on April 23 to make legislators aware of the waiting list of people for services. Anyone interested can contact Kathryn for the name and phone number of the person in charge of coordinating transportation.

Another item of interest was the new bill proposed regarding stray voltage that has been blamed for causing illness and disabilities of various types in people. The bill was proposed before. Stray voltage has been blamed for causing autism in children. Right now there is no legislation holding utility companies accountable for grounding high voltage charges.

Funding for services for autistic children was discussed. It may be cut from the governor's budget. How the services are delivered is in question.

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Education - Troy Norman reported that the calendar of speakers and topic is complete. In April Laura Lutz will be here for an update on 211. Shirley Bedard and Bill Graham will speak in June. Joan Sternweis is confirmed for October. Since Sue Walker is not sure about August, Linda Cole suggested that she come in October at the same time as Joan. Troy will check on this.

Mike DeMares suggested showing the HIPAA video tape which he feels would be helpful to our group. All Health and Health Services staff are required to view it. It is only 17 minutes long and could be shown at our next meeting.

For the August meeting, Linda Cole suggested to invite a representative from the Invisible Children's Program. The Program's goals are to meet the needs of families with mentally ill children and the needs of the children themselves. Linda read off the list of their goals.

Unmet Needs - Grace Davis-Harris reported that we prioritized the needs list last month and the list was presented. She will set up a meeting with the sub-committee and get a timeline for collecting information. Then she will know when to set up future meetings with the sub-committee. Right now the sub-committee consists of Ed Renner, Sandra Hack, Ardean Orth, Mike DeMares, and Grace. It will be helpful to know more what the budget will be. It is also helpful to have the results of what other surveys have found out. It was suggested to have a meeting sometime in May and set up a timeline.

Old Business – There was none at this time.

New Business – None at this time.

Other – Linda Cole passed out flyers announcing the Joint Meeting of all Advisory Committees on April 3, 2003 at 10:00 – 11:30 AM at the Goodwill Building. Everyone is invited to bring a bag lunch and then to attend the meeting of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families which follows at 12:00 to 2:00 PM. The discussion will be on how the Wisconsin State Budget will impact Wisconsin families and children and specifically, Waukesha County. Peter Schuler will be a guest speaker.

Since there was no other business, John Rau moved to adjourn. Troy Norman seconded the motion. Motion was passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2003 at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Mae Zandt, Recorder

Minutes were approved _____
Date